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country, the inhabitants of the latter having an alphabet of their own invention, consisting of, I believe, some two or three hundred characters. In another statement of his, Mr. Conway has doubtless confounded the Gaboon people with the natives of the Gold Coast, and he was totally in error (or was misreported) in saying that he had 'seen a large collection of gold ornaments made by natives of the Gaboon region,'—the Gaboon people do not possess gold (except in the shape of European coin) nor do they at all understand the method of working that precious metal. I have thought it worth while writing to correct these statements, because going forth to the world as having passed uncontradicted at the meeting of the British Association for the promotion of Science, they are likely to be received as correct and reliable, when in fact they are utterly erroneous, valueless, and directly opposed to the true state of the case. Should you consider my remarks worthy of being made public, you are at liberty to publish them in the manner you may judge most desirable; perhaps the *Athenæum* would be the best medium of making them public. I will in conclusion say a few words touching another assertion of Mr. Conway's, as it is entirely contrary to my own experience. Mr. Conway says that the 'peculiar odour of the negro was only noticeable in those of the race who had much labour to perform, and were not given to frequent ablutions.' I could produce numerous individuals in whom it is undoubtedly a constitutional defect, or whatever the term may be, and entirely independent of avocation or of cleanliness, or its reverse. I know many negroes afflicted with this offensive odour, to whom it is a constant source of annoyance and regret, and who cannot get rid of it or overcome it by the greatest attention to cleanliness; and some of these individuals are not engaged in employment of a laborious nature at all. The Ba Fan seldom or never wash, yet the odour is by no means strong in individuals of that tribe. As to ladies of the Southern States sleeping with their negro maids, that is, I presume, simply a matter of convenience, not of taste, and proves nothing. Sailors sometimes, especially in Africa, take monkeys and other animals for bed-fellows, and certainly the odour of some of these is offensive enough. As far as I have remarked during the long period I have resided in Africa, I have found the odour to exist more or less strongly in almost all negroes; I have known some few in whom I could scarcely detect it—but it varies in degree, according to the constitution of individuals, just as we know that Europeans of certain complexions are affected in a similar manner. In some negroes it is excessively strong and disgusting, so as to render it almost impossible to approach them within several feet."

Mr. DENDY observed that it was a question whether there were any races in which the smell did not exist.

The following abstracts of papers were then read.

Paraná Indians. By Consul HUTCHINSON.

The author commenced by stating that the name given to the great Southern river had not been given by the first discoverers, but

its name, Rio de la Plata was conferred by Sebastian Cabot, on the occasion of his exchanging many articles of silver and gold with the Guarani on its banks, for drugs. The author preferred the grand old Indian name of Paraná. Great opposition was offered to the landing of De Solis by the natives at first, and treachery was employed, the Spaniards being killed and eaten. Sebastian Cabot was the next explorer. On his departure in 1532, he left as governor Don Nuno de Lara, in whose care the colony continued until a furious war, caused by the beauty of a Spanish lady—Lucia Miranda—arose, and the garrison was butchered, and Lucia was burnt.

Mendoza was the next governor, in 1535, and at this time Buenos Ayres was founded, and continual warfare raged, the colony being nearly abandoned. War again took place between the Agaces and Guaranis and the Spaniards, but the latter gradually penetrated to Paraguay, and the Indians received a final check from Don Juan de Garay. He founded Santa Fé, 1573, but was very soon after murdered up the river: in 1651 the capital was finally transferred to its present site. The Indians of this region in all cases showed great ferocity.

Mr. HUTCHINSON, in a communication dated 20th September, 1867, at Rosario, mentioned that he had obtained two memoirs by Dr. Gutierrez, the rector of Buenos Ayres, on the Guarani and Quichua languages, which he proposed to translate for the Society. He also referred to D'Orbigny's book on the American Man, which contained references to the Patagonian and Pampas Indians. He had seen some of the Patagonian Indians of the Tehuelches and Pehuelches tribes dressed in their native costume, the guanaco skins. He forwarded some of their hair, and skulls were promised from the colony in the Chaput county. They were not large, as hitherto reported, but although not giants, their stature and frame was immense. They had likewise expansive foreheads, and their chests were very expanded. Mr. H. was making a collection of Indian photographs, having already accumulated some thirty or forty.

JAMES PERRIN, Esq., Local Secretary for Pietermaritzburg, Natal, writes that no anthropological work has as yet been published in Natal; the population of Natal appeared to be as follows:—Whites, 18,000; Coolies, 5,000; Natives 250,000—263,000 persons. No census has, however, yet been officially taken. The estimate is based upon a calculation of four persons per hut. This does not include the Kafirs belonging to tribes in the vicinity of Delagoa Bay, and those from Amnonpondo County and the Basuto-Mantalees from beyond the Drukenberg Mountains. He submitted a carefully compiled and trustworthy list of the native tribes of Natal, with the names of their head men, 134 in number.

The DIRECTOR, in proposing a vote of thanks to these gentlemen for their several communications, said that perhaps local secretaries at a distance were not all aware that this was an evening set apart for their reports. On the next occasion he trusted the presentation of these reports would be more systematic.

The Rev. DUNBAR HEATH seconded the proposal.

Mr. GROOM NAPIER returned thanks, and the meeting adjourned.